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TRANSFER OF INDIA ON DOMINION STATUS

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS Scotland Yard Investigating

Southport, June 2.
Dr James Montague Houston, who last week performed a post-mortem into the mysterious death of a colleague's fourth wife, died just as mysteriously himself today while Scotland Yard's chemical analysts were seeking to determine:
1. The cause of the death of Dr Robert George Clements' wealthy fourth wife on May 27.
2. The cause of the death of Dr Clements himself on May 30 after he told his son, "I am a little worried" and after writing a six-line note which the police have not revealed.
Clements died after the Southport coroner stopped the inquest on his wife's death and ordered Dr Houston to examine her body. Houston was found dead today in his Southport infirmary and the police refused any details pending the inquest tomorrow.
The vital organs of both Mrs Clements and her 67-year-old husband were sent to laboratories in London for checking and the inquests into their deaths were postponed pending examination.

"VERY FUSSY"

Clements, his first three wives and Houston were all natives of Ireland. His fourth wife, 47-year-old Amy Victoria Clements, was the daughter of a Liverpool businessman, Reginald Barnett, who left her £22,386 when he died in 1939.
Clements, whom a witness described as "very fussy" in his examination of women patients, signed the death certificates for his first two wives—Edith Anna Mercer, who died in 1920, and Mary MacGregor, who died in 1927 and who was the mother of his son. His third wife, Kathleen Burch, died in 1939.
Houston, who was 39, married and the father of two children, had completed the examination of Mrs Clements before his death. Southport Criminal Investigation officers said they could not comment on his death until an inquest had been held.—United Press.

Attlee Not Going To America

London, June 2.
The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, is not going to the United States. The report broadcast in the United States to the effect yesterday finds no confirmation in any official quarters.
The suggestion was that Mr Attlee intended visiting the United States to confer with President Truman on various aspects of policy. The Prime Minister has no such intention.—Reuter.

Flood Relief Fund

The following donations were received yesterday: Hongkong Sea Products and Grocers' Association, \$35; Hongkong United Trading Company, \$100.

EDITORIAL

Generosity of the Heart

REAL generosity is not a product of calculated thinking. It comes from the heart. By this token Hongkong made its response to the appeal for the relief of British flood victims the most spontaneous demonstration of personal feeling yet known in the Colony. The Hongkong Flood Relief Fund is now fairly well known. It started with a donation—and a suggestion—by a Chinese citizen. From a \$200 beginning, the fund rose within two months until its closing date, to \$120,000, or more than £18,000 sterling. This is to be added to the Lord Mayor of London's original fund which, eventually will amount to more than a million pounds, because, like Hongkong, other parts of the Empire have voluntarily come forward to pay willing tribute to the disaster. The uncomplaining people of Britain. Contributions to the Hongkong Flood Relief

Fund reveal that practically every section of the community was represented: from schoolchildren to banking corporations. Individuals of all races donated; so did business houses (at least 300); so also staffs of firms, together with clubs, churches and associations. There were donations from bodies such as the "Farmers, Importers, Exporters and Bidders of the Government Wholesale Vegetable Market," and from "All the blind girls of the Ebenezer Home for Blind Girls, Sheung Shui." Nothing has been more impressive than the contributions of schoolchildren. Forty-eight schools set up subscription lists, totalling nearly \$20,000—all races being included among the contributors. Analysis of the subscribers proves the wide appeal enjoyed by this fund. The result can rightly be described as Hongkong's finest community effort.

British Government Ready To Enact Legislation, Report

New Delhi, June 2.

It was learned here today that the British Government is proposing to introduce legislation in the current session of Parliament, providing for the transfer of power to Indians this year on the basis of Dominion status for the one or two successor authorities.
It was further learned that the attainment of Dominion status would be without prejudice to the right of the Indian Constituent Assembly to decide in due course whether the part of India in respect to which they have authority will remain in the British Commonwealth or not.
The vital departure in the British Government's latest plan is that while in the State paper of May 16, last year they declared that power could not be handed over to two entire separate sovereign states, the present plan envisages a division of India.

It is not the British Government's desire to interrupt the work of the existing Constituent Assembly but to facilitate the creation of another Constituent Assembly for such areas as are not represented in the present body. When this is done, it will be possible to determine the authority or authorities to whom power will be transferred. It is expected by August, India will be a full-fledged dominion.

A referendum will be taken in the Northwest Frontier Province. Similarly the people of Sylhet in Assam will be given the opportunity to decide whether they want to be in Hindustan or Pakistan.
There is no reference to the word "Pakistan" in the British plan to be announced tomorrow.
The setting up of Pakistan, separate Moslem state of India, was assumed as strongly by political circles after today's conference of Indian leaders with the Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, that speculation is already centred on either Lahore or Karachi as the capital.
The shape of the new India—unity or partition—was expected to be announced by the Viceroy tomorrow.—Reuter.

PROBABLE BRITISH PLAN

London, June 2.
Twin cabinets for Hindustan and Pakistan sharing responsibility for vital all-India subjects during the interim period and having Dominion status at least until the transfer of power—this is believed to be the British plan to be disclosed if the Viceroy's conference with the Delhi leaders ends successfully.

This plan will leave India complete freedom to determine her ultimate association with the British Empire after the transfer of power.
Presumably, the present interim Government would form the nucleus of the twin cabinets.

Informed British political quarters assume that if the scheme emerges as predicted, the Viceroy during the interim period as Governor-General will preside over the twin cabinets and over their joint deliberations upon matters of all-India interest.
On the eve of the announcement of the British plan of procedure to aid the transfer of power, there is a general belief in London that the decision will be for division. The point which emerges clearly is that the plan relates only to British India. The British Government's policy towards the Indian states, it is gathered, remains unchanged and Britain clearly will not contemplate handing over any of her responsibility in connection with the Indian states to any other authority in India.

INTERIM STATUS

With the transfer of power, however, British paramountcy departs but this does not of course rule out a fresh treaty arrangement between Britain and the individual Indian states, which in due course will doubtless open negotiations with Britain.

Suggestion of an interim Dominion status for two Indias has aroused much interest in British political quarters, which as was indicated in a dispatch some time ago envisaged

the subject of Dominion status as forming part of the discussions though in what context was not then clear.
In point of fact this is the aspect of the plan which informed quarters here believe to have developed since the Viceroy returned to India after his talks with the British Cabinet's Indian experts in London last week.

The recurrent suggestion that Britain intends to make a premature departure from India should once more be put into its proper perspective.
The position as seen by informed quarters here is that Britain at the moment is pledged to leave India

by June, 1948 at the latest. Clearly the possibility of the withdrawal taking place earlier depends entirely upon the speed with which the arrangements go forward from this moment.
Patently it is the British Government's wish to see emerge at the earliest moment successor authorities having the democratic support of India's elected representatives in the provinces to whom she can hand over her responsibilities and keep her "quit India" pledge.
But the Indians by their capacity to reach an agreement—even if it is an "agreement to disagree"—continue to be the arbiters of any (Continued on Page 4)

Hungary Now Regarded As A Communist State

London, June 2.

Whitehall circles were about ready tonight to write off Hungary as another Communist-dominated state.

They said the resignation of Smallholder Ferenc Nagy as Prime Minister marked the turning point in the internal situation in Hungary and an undisputed Communist victory.

Up to last week-end, they said, Britain had clung to the hope that Hungary might escape Communist domination, but Nagy's dramatic withdrawal brought Hungary's status closer to that of Bulgaria, Rumania and other "Eastern democracies," these informants said.

The British Foreign Office has not decided whether to take any action on the Hungarian crisis. An official Russian communication on latest developments was awaited. The Foreign Office considers the Soviet Chairman of the Allied Control Council for Hungary, General Sviridov, pledged by the control agreement to keep Britain and the United States informed of any relevant action taken by him on behalf of the Soviet government.

ACCUSATIONS DOUBTED

No consultations have been held by the Foreign Office with the United States State Department.
Whitehall circles said Hungary under the leadership of Nagy had been likely to develop into a moderate peasant democracy. They doubted the conspiracy charges levelled at Nagy on the grounds that Nagy as both Prime Minister and leader of the strongest Hungarian party could have conspired only against himself. Although formally there has been no major change in the composition of the Hungarian government, diplomatic observers said the latest reports from Hungary indicated that the extreme Left Wing of the Smallholder Party henceforth would speak for the Party as a whole.
The bulk of the Peasant deputies, who had supported the arrested Secretary General of the Party, Bela Kovacs and Nagy, were now condemned to political inactivity and forced to accept the lead of people whom they considered outsiders.
Hungarian Left Wing quarters believed that Hungary, after moving

Left, might reach a better understanding not only with Russia, but with the small Danubian states.—United Press.

STOP PRESS LATEST DETAILS OF INDIA PLAN

New Delhi, June 2.

Highlights of the British plan for India are:
1. Immediate measures for partition, including the partition of the disputed provinces of the Punjab and Bengal.

2. No change in the interim government until partition is effected, when two separate governments are to be set up, with full powers on all subjects.

3. Each provincial legislature to vote on the issue of the partition of India.
4. Provision for the joint working of defence, communications and external affairs until the two Constituent Assemblies—Hindustan and Pakistan—are in a position to come to a final decision.

5. A referendum in the Northwest Frontier Province to decide which of the two Constituent Assemblies the Pathans wish to join.
6. The Sylhet district of Assam to continue as at present until the position in Bengal is clear, when there will be a referendum to decide whether it should belong to Bengal or Assam.

7. The Indian States, after the lapse of paramountcy (sovereignty of the British Crown), not to be able to enter into military or any other fresh treaties with Britain, and the British Government to use its influence to persuade the States to join one or the other of the two dominions.

Thrice Bankrupt Duke Leaves £257 Estate

London, June 3.

William Angus Drogo Montagu, Britain's happy-go-lucky duke who owned three castles and was three times a bankrupt, left an estate of £257-10 the publication of his will disclosed yesterday.
Montagu, the ninth Duke of Manchester, died last February. He had been a soldier, author, financier, gold prospector, journalist and an actor. Friends said he could have succeeded at any of them if he hadn't been a duke.
The will, executed in New York, made bequests to his son Alexander, his daughter Mary and to his widow Kathleen, Duchess of Manchester.
The Duke's first wife was Helena Zimmerman, daughter of the late Eugene Zimmerman of Cincinnati. She obtained a divorce in 1931.—Associated Press.

Parisians Queue For Bread In Tropic Heat

Paris, June 2.

Hundreds of thousands of grumbling, ill-tempered Parisian housewives stood in tropical heat for hours today to get the five ounces of bread they have been reduced to by the bakers' strike. In some populous quarters, many went breadless.

Throughout the day, workers' delegations hammered at the doors of the Prime Minister's office and the Ministry of Labour, demanding that the conflict be rapidly solved.

The 48-hour strike is due to end at midnight tomorrow, but if the workers do not obtain satisfaction, it was feared they might declare a limitless general strike.
The situation was grave but not catastrophic, because many bakeries are family affairs and they could produce as long as flour held out.

However, the Government can maintain the skimpy 150-gram ration only with great difficulty. Orders went to Army bakeries to get the utmost production and the small round Army loaves will go to the bakeries for sale.

UNABATING CLAMOUR

The chief demand of bakers' hands was a 1,000-franc monthly production bonus.
Grappling with this, the Government was being forced closer to the wall by the unabating clamour of workers for more pay.

A general strike hit the textile centre of Lille when the CGT labour organisation ordered workers to go on with demands for a five-day week and salary adjustments.

Workers in gasoline plants walked out, demanding a ten francs per hour production bonus. Transport slowed around Paris and many pump stations shut down. Negotiations were fruitless.

Sources close to labour circles said the road transport men were restless and might seize upon the gas workers' strike to press demands for more money—making the situation grave for food distribution.

Within this ceaseless clamour for more money was being heard, Emmanuel Monick, Director of the Bank of France, before the National Credit Council today flatly stated the country could not afford it.
With few exceptions, he said, production costs were such that "they cannot stand an increase of salaries."

"A great many businesses are in difficult circumstances," the Director said. "The banks themselves do not have a sufficient margin of deposits to face any massive demands for credits."
M. Monick said any general increase in wages would intensify considerably the inflationary tendency of 1946.

Another report to the Council said there was no hope of any marked increase of production in France.

This report said the formula for production bonuses "would risk devalorizing nominal salaries very rapidly, as there would be no counterpart in increased production."
One bright spot in the situation was the announcement by the Federation of small businesses and store-keepers that they would not strike as planned on Wednesday. Their requests for increased economic liberty and less Government control were being studied by the Government.—United Press.

London Swelters

Four Records Broken

London, June 2.
This was the hottest day in English June for almost 100 years, with the temperature hitting 90 in the shade and breaking four records—one of which had stood since weather records were first kept in 1856.

There was at least one death attributed to what ranks in Britain as a major heat wave, and river police along the Thames were kept busy fishing out children who waded in too far to cool their feet. Oddly, it was the sun itself which gave Londoners relief in the late afternoon by setting fire to a huge used tire dump, which spread black smoke like a cool rain cloud over the city.

Temperatures rose six degrees in two hours to set new records today of 90 and 87 on the Air Ministry roof and in Kew Gardens respectively. Two records also fell last night—the Air Ministry high recording of 73 to break the 1940 record and the Kew Gardens recording of 64 to break the 1856 record.

Temperatures started dropping after 4 p.m., however, when smoke from burning fires in the dump at the southern suburb of Mitcham in Surrey blacked out the sun over a large part of the city. Thirty-five fire engines poured water on the blaze to keep it from spreading to two nearby factories and firemen forecast an all-night battle.—United Press.

DERBY LATEST RICHARDS TIPS THE WINNER

Hints He Will Ride The Favourite

London, June 2.

The hint that he would ride the favourite, Tudor Minstrel, in the Derby was given by the champion jockey, Gordon Richards, at the Press Club annual luncheon to owners, trainers and jockeys of horses that will run in the Derby on Saturday.

Richards said: "My tip is, I think, Tudor Minstrel will win and my only danger is Blue Train. It starts. If it is hard it would be plain murder to run Blue Train." Richards said that he would not make his decision on his mount until after the final gallop tomorrow, adding: "I hope I shall choose the right one."
Richards said that he had received thousands of letters wishing him luck.

His chief rival jockey on Saturday, Edgar Britt, Australian-born rider, who will mount on the second favourite, Sayajiro, said: "Although I am a bit optimistic I know that I have a big job."
The crack Anglo-French jockey, Charlie Elliott, thought that the French candidates had not much chance, especially when they came up against a horse like Tudor Minstrel.

Tudor Minstrel's owner, Mr John Dewar, stated: "This year I am looking forward with great expectations that my Tudor Minstrel will win the Derby. The only thing that I would like to see in conjunction with this, when we find out what Gordon Richards' idea is, is that Gordon, who has battled on a losing ticket all these years, will this year score one run. Gordon, whatever you ride, good luck to you!"

THE KING'S HORSE

Lord Rosbery, senior Steward of the Jockey Club, saying that the Royal Family had been a great supporter of racing for hundreds of years, declared: "There is one horse, apart from all consideration, we would like to see win. I am not in the secret of the Beekhampton won the Derby to a reception at the Derby winner such as we never heard since the days of Manot. If the king does not win this year, we all hope the day will not be long when we can see our present King leading in the winner of the Derby at Epsom."

Prince Aly Khan thought both Saravali and Minstrel would stay, but if Tudor Minstrel stayed the mile and half neither would have any chance.
Mr James Rank thought that his Merry Quip would stay, adding: "I hope that people who have a little each way on him will not lose their money."

The luncheon tables were decorated with freshly cut flowers over from Holland. The menu bore the black and white colours of Lord Derby.

THE CALL-OVER

The Victoria Club callover this afternoon was: Evans Tudor Minstrel, 11 to 2; Sayajiro, both taken, and offered, 100 to 7 Grand Weather.—(Continued on Page 4)

Yorkshire's Second County Cricket Defeat Of The Season

London, June 2.

A grand innings of 154 by Denis Compton, who was helped by Bill Edrich in a third wicket stand of 119 and by his brother, Leslie Compton, in a sixth wicket partnership of 103, saved Middlesex against the South Africans at Lords today.

Middlesex surprisingly declared at 310 for eight, leaving themselves 108 runs behind, and the South Africans replied with 62 for one to lead by 170 runs.

It was Compton's highest score of the season and his third century in successive matches and his performance was more commendable, as, owing to the illness of his young son, he had a restless night. Compton completed his hundred in three hours and 24 minutes and then attacked fiercely with drives and pulls and scored the last 54 in 55 minutes. He hit 19 fours in a chanceless innings.

Edrich drove hard all round the wicket and hit 11 fours.

In County matches, Peter Hearn, 21-year-old Kent left-hander, added his name to the select number of batsmen to achieve the rare distinction of making a county debut with a century.

Hearn, a former prisoner-of-war who is being demobbed in August, made a splendid 124, using every stroke and hitting 16 fours in three and a half hours against Warwickshire.

Fitzhard, Warwick's New Zealand Test bowler, had a grand spell, bowling the last five Kent batsmen for 18 runs in 18 balls.

Tom Goddard donned the mantle of Cecil Cook, England's new Test choice, in helping Gloucestershire to their third win of the season. Goddard, with a spell of five for 23, humbled Yorkshire again.

Scores at the close of play today were:
At Lords: South Africans 424 and 62 for one (Mitchell 22, Malville not out 30). Middlesex 614 for eight declared (Edrich 67, Denis Compton 154, Leslie Compton 32).

At Derby: Derbyshire beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 25 runs. Derby 267. Northants 99 (Copson four for 33) and 143.

At Bristol: Gloucestershire beat Yorkshire by nine wickets. Yorks 126 and 119 (Goddard six for 35). Gloucestershire 170 (Smalles six for 42) and 73 for one.

At Gillingham: Warwickshire 185 and 260 for four (Hill 61). Kent 333 (Hearn 124, Pritchard seven for 110).

At Cambridge: Worcestershire 207 and 30 for one. Cambridge University 270 (Watts 54, Insole 02, Jonkins five for 69).

At Manchester: Lancashire 148 and 124 for two. Surrey 435 (Fletcher 72, Whittaker 61, Watts 70, Holmes 82).

At Leicester: Leicestershire beat Hampshire by an innings and 83 runs. Hampshire 174 and 101. Leicestershire 420 for eight declared.

At Nottingham: Nottingham 662 for eight declared. Essex 227 for four. At Newport: Somersetshire 116 and 189. Glamorgan 235 (Porter 54) and 18 for no wickets.—Reuter.

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SOME SENTIMENTAL PEOPLE WANT TO SAVE THIS NAZI, WHO ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT ROMANS



SHOULD KESSELRING DIE?

By PATRICK DONCASTER

FIELD-MARSHAL KESSELRING, who in the early days of the war gave the world its first lesson in saturation bombing by smashing Rotterdam and Coventry, has been sentenced to death by shooting in Italy as a war criminal.

The crime for which he has been condemned to die was not the bombing of defenceless civilians but the massacre as a reprisal of over 300 Italians in the Ardeatine Caves on the outskirts of Rome on March 23, 1944.

Colonel Hulse, who led the prosecution at Kesselring's trial, described the crime bluntly, but with truth, as "the dirtiest piece of work ever committed by any nation."

Yet a sentimental crusade has been opened by distinguished British soldiers—some of them generals—to save Kesselring from the death penalty on the ground that, taken all in all, he was really a pretty decent fellow.

Now I have been to these caves in which the massacre was committed. They are now a national memorial.

I would like to tell in simple words the story of that shocking crime as a counter to the sentimental crusade.

The Ardeatine Caves are just outside Rome, a rubbish dump across the way from the catacombs of St Callistus, where 16 Poles are buried.

The catacombs are deeper than the caves, and the smell is of age. The caves still carry the air of massacre. In the catacombs of the Poles I was cold. In the caves I shivered, and my thoughts were bitter.

THE SCENE

Dim electric bulbs, lit the brown sandstone walls, along which lay more than 300 victims of this "dirtiest piece of work" in plain white-wood boxes, adorned with pictures and pitiful relics.

On a wooden table there were human remains; parts of the unidentified, there in the hope that perhaps a dentist might be able to recognise something.

In the caves you find the evidence of Germany's guilt.

CRIME NEWS IN FINE FOCUS—No. 3

THESE MEN DRILL TO GET WHISKY

By JOHN REDFERN

"KNOCK three times and ask for Charlie" used to be a music-hall catch phrase. Today it is the password for the men who carry the canful of whisky to the eager publican or club proprietor.

Almost every big city in Britain has its counterparts of Charlie. They are the men who, by a thoughtful study of rail time-tables, road maps, and lorry schedules, intercept the legal flow of spirits from the distilleries to the public houses, wine shops and docks.

They are the men who ensure that when you take a nip in a public house these days you never know whether or not you are kissing, as you lift your glass, the end of a chain of crime.

WHISKY BY WHISPER

The price they charge for their services you can discover at any of Britain's mushroom wine shops, or at the bars where they sell whisky by the whisper or offer a bottle of spirits under cover of a newspaper. The prices range from £3 10s. to £4 15s.

Who pays for this high-price liquor? A principal contributor is the decent, honest distributor with whisky to sell at 25s. 9d., the trade's fixed price. The price he pays is masked in the books as "breakages." Stan could tell you about these "breakages." Stan is not a racketeer. He is a carpenter by trade, and he drinks mild beer, and now smokes only ten cigarettes a day. I met him in London.

He knows very little about Scotch, but he knows that a lot of whisky delivered to the publicans is in smashed containers when it arrives. It has been "nobbled," as Stan's friends put it.

On the way from the warehouse to the public house, dock or wine shop, expert thieves took out the bottles and broke them over a sifter.

Then they were replaced, with the seals intact. Alcohol was put in the case to make it smell as though drenched with spilled whisky. The publican receiving the case sent a report back, and claimed allowance for the lost stuff.

But someone was the better off by 12 bottles of whisky.

Whisky distributors say that the breakages claims from customers are going up and up. They will increase still further since home supplies were halved.

Only a few months in his present job, Stan, aged 26, told his boss he could do a bit of driving. The boss—a builders' merchant—seemed interested.

A LITTLE TRIP

THEN one night when Stan was finishing work, his employer asked if he would mind making "a little trip." Stan agreed.

He was told to go on foot to an alley in Westminster. There a vehicle would be waiting. He must take it over and drive it to a public house. Nothing much to handle. Only a few medium-sized cases.

Those cases interested Stan. He didn't have to be much of a carpenter to know they held whisky. At the week-end he found an extra £1 in his pay packet.

That was the first week. The next week he made a few more trips to more wine and spirit retailers. Later his pay packet was increased by 30s.

Behind Stan, and hundreds like him, are sleek characters operating

A mislaid bomb on a church or a school is explained. But how is the massacre of the caves explained? What makes human beings deliberately and callously mow down a boy of 12 years?

Says Kesselring: "I assume entire responsibility. . . . If anyone is to blame in this matter it is I."

I doubt if Kesselring has been to the caves. It is impossible to get in them soon after the tragedy, because the Germans tried to destroy the evidence by mines.

There the victims and the tumbling earth remained until the fall of Rome, for it began just before the Allies entered the Eternal City in 1944.

Thirty-two S.S. men were killed by a bomb in a side street near Rome's Barberini Palace. Out went an order for hostages. The ratio was to be ten for one. Thirty-two Germans—320 hostages.

Rome's Regina Coeli jail is small. There were not enough prisoners in it to make up the number. But there were some. So to the Via Tasso, to the S.S. torture chamber. And the total swelled.

But still not enough.

People were plucked off the streets. In the end the good work resulted in 325 people being rounded up. A little over the stipulated ten for one. But what did five more matter?

Newspaper reports of the Kesselring trial mention 326 victims. At the caves a notice states 325.

On the evening of March 23 they were taken out to the caves. What happened then must be gathered from German evidence. There was a curfew in force; the road is lonely. No Italians could have seen it.

from trim offices in the West End of London. They have big, new cars, and typists who don't have much to type. On their pay-rolls are 20 to 30 men who organise the collection of the whisky with a trail of corruption.

There is, say, Dick X, married, with a family, who drives a lorry. He is approached by one of the men from the West End office, who suggests that it would be worth his while to leave his lorry—containing perhaps £5,000 worth of whisky—unattended for a few minutes. The time and the place are stated.

It may take £100 to lure Mr X from the path of duty. Often the approach is unfruitful. But £100 is £100 tax free—and that is small money for such a job.

Now and then a Mr X falls in with the scheme. And when he does the whisky disappears from the unattended lorry like snow in summer's heat.

MORE BREAKAGES

TRUCKS in railway sidings, too, have been pilfered. Whisky delivered in stone jars has been tapped by holes drilled through the bottom, then the jar, in its protective basket-work, dropped on to the ground. More breakages, no traces.

In the shops where whisky is sold at high prices they say that the stuff comes from auctions. But there are not enough auctions nowadays to supply one tithe of the black market.

Sale of individual stocks has been restricted for more than a year. The only auctions now are trade sales for blenders.

In the public houses where the whisky flows like beer it is a safe bet that some of it has been stolen somewhere on the way.

For your 2s. a nip you have a draught of fraud and corruption.

France is building an army —for 1960

By MICHAEL WILSON

Paris, May 20. MR. BELLENGER, has come to France to get first-hand information about the French Army. He wants to know just what aid France could bring to the Anglo-French military alliance—how many men, how much material.

He will learn that France's military power today is at its lowest ebb since the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo. When the Germans smashed France's armies of 1940 and half million men in 1940, they dislocated her entire military framework.

If war came to Europe to-morrow, France could be of almost no military help.

Fresh start

The French Army today totals approximately 400,000 men, but it is a new-born baby, just learning to crawl. More than 100,000 of these troops are busy quelling the Viet-Nam revolt in Indo-China. Twenty-five thousand more are in Madagascar fighting an uprising.

In the rear of this front-line strength is a complete lack of all industrial machinery for the manufacture of war material.

The French Army today is completely equipped, from underclothes to tanks, with British and American material. It was handed over on a lease-lend basis at the end of the war, or purchased from surplus Anglo-American stocks. Whole camps were transferred.

The French General Staff is under no illusion. General de Lattre de Tassigny, generalissimo of the new-born army, will probably tell Mr. Belenger bluntly that France is rebuilding her military machine on the basis of "no war within 15 years."

It will say that France cannot fight a war before that period, and cannot be relied upon for any help until 1960, at the earliest.

In 15 Years

Half the present-day French Army is an elite force of regulars, highly trained as paratroopers, commandos and tankmen. The other half are conscripts doing a year's military service.

The French Government has announced that it intends to keep the strength of the army below 500,000 men for the moment, but the General Staff considers that in 15 years France will have three million men trained, and the material stored in North Africa to equip an army of this size.

Will then, Mr. Belenger, the Anglo-French alliance be not very military.

BY THE WAY, by Beachcomber

A HITCH has occurred during a large-scale trial of the Strabismus No-Way Traffic Plan. Nobody seems to know what is meant by the words "In the opposite direction."

Which direction is the opposite one, and opposite to which? "Traffic going in any direction may claim that it is going in the opposite direction in relation to traffic going the other way." These words of a law official put the matter in a sinister light. Of two lines of traffic one travelling from north to south and the other from south to north, which is going in the opposite direction? The schedule (B.A.S./H.A.) will have to be carefully reworded.

Whither, octopus?

THOSE scientists who, for want of something worse to do, are about to test the intelligence of the octopus in the aquarium at Naples have, I fear, not seen my account (published in "Zoological Bills" for

November 1934) of how I read Homer's "Iliad" to the octopus in the Busle Zoo. When I came to the passage in the nineteenth book where Xanthus, the horse of Achilles, speaks a few unkind words (by permission of Juno), the octopus shouted, "What rot! Horses can't talk!" A very good test of intelligence is to induce an octopus to play the bagpipes, and then to see if he can tell which is playing which.

Pursuant to the above

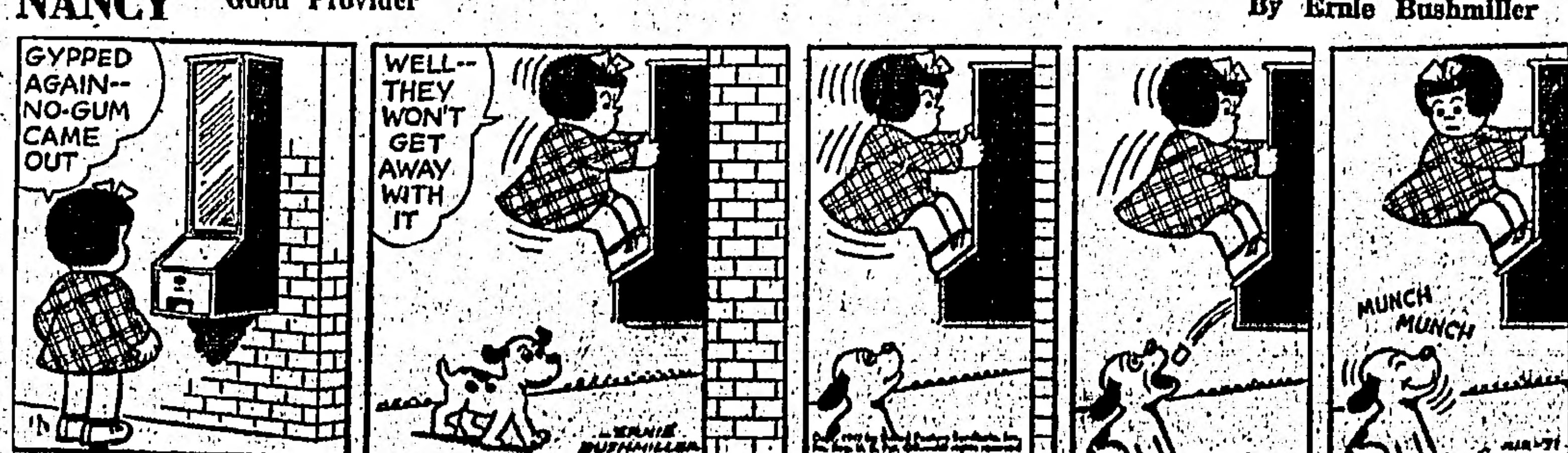
AS for putting an octopus in a wooden maze, to find its way out by trial and error, a better test is to sit it down at a typewriter and see how long it takes to tap out Spenser's "Fairy Queen," using alternate tentacles. The centipede, which is the most intelligent trigonometry in existence, when told to put its best foot forward, hesitates for many years. Give it a hundred little books, and watch to see whether it will pull them all on, at once or make a careful selection.

The old lady, says No

My oldest hen has been broody for five weeks. (Correspondence column.)

There the matter roosts at present.

NANCY Good Provider



By Ernie Bushmiller



Women *This Space Every Day*

BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Certain foods cause rashes. If you are allergic to them, eliminate them from your diet.

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—Do you think that the longer skirts are flattering?—MILDRED."

Not always. The average woman looks best in the shorter skirt but 14 or 14½ inches from the floor is new and becoming. Cocktail and afternoon dresses are 8 inches from the floor. If draped with down-in-back effect you will like them. But get busy and lengthen those skirts which are 18 inches from the floor. If you don't go to going to town out of fashion and out of step with new ideas. And do remember that those flat-heeled shoes are not good with the longer skirts.

"Dear Lois Leeds—My skin isn't very oily but the pores are so coarse. What should I use?"

NELL B.

Try a combination of pore cream and astringent oil. Both can be found at any good cosmetic counter. Blend well, one-quarter cream and three-quarters of the oil, heat and before your bath. A tiny bit can be used under powder unless it looks oily. In that case, add more of the pore cream.

Minute Makeup

by GABRIELLE



What's New, you ask! Chains and everything that glitters, for your neck and your wrists. Long, long gloves, shepherds crooks for umbrella handles. And these umbrellas are in "complexion" Rose and Violet-Mauve! Fancy pocketbooks and dressy big bags slung over the shoulders. And the bags now have a pin to hold them securely.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Mother buys the stupidest hats—they don't look bad on her, but they're never young enough for me to borrow!"

Young Art Student's Disappearance Still An Unsolved Mystery

The melting snows of Vermont's rugged Green Mountains may reveal the secret of New England's greatest modern mystery—the disappearance of Paula Welden, a sophomore student at swanky Bennington College.

With the vanishing away of the snows, search is being resumed for the 18-year-old, blue-eyed blonde who was last seen on December 1 last along the route to Long Trail, a wilderness road that dwindles into a path on its course to Canada.

Experienced men, wise in the ways of the woods, and untrained college boys and girls beat the brush for several weeks after Paula vanished while on a casual Sunday afternoon walk, but at best the search was hasty and not too well-organized because of the onset of winter. Heavy snows finally forced abandonment of the search.

Despite the efforts of investigators augmented by imported detectives, all that is known is that Paula disappeared after hopping out of Louis Knapp's automobile in front of his home several miles from Long Trail.

Knapp, the last known person to have seen the young art student, told authorities he was driving his car past Bennington College shortly after 3 p.m. on December 1 when he was hailed by Paula just beyond the college gate.

Last Remarks

When Knapp arrived at his home, he said, he stopped the car and the girl alighted with the remark: "Thanks, that's swell."

SNAKIE-BOY WAS LIFE OF THE PARTY

Clifford Pope says the only way to learn about a snake is to live with one. He does.

He keeps a six-foot python in a box beside the furnace of his home. It is quite a pet, he says. It feeds out of his hand and is partly housebroken.

His 11-year-old son, Whitney, calls the python Snake-boy. Whitney likes to let Snake-boy exercise on the living room floor. Snake-boy likes it too, Pope says.

"We had a birthday celebration," Pope says, "and Snake-boy was the life of the party."

Pope is curator of reptiles at the Chicago Natural History Museum. The python was sent to the museum from Burma, where a surprised mess cook found it under a sugar barrel.

"After a few weeks," Pope says, "I took the python to my home because there the temperature can be controlled day and night."

Don't Know The Answers

Besides, he says, even snake experts don't know all the answers about snakes, and he wanted to study one daily under favorable conditions.

Some of these questions are: How fast do giant snakes grow? How long does it take them to grow up? How long do they live? How much can they learn? How do they crawl? How much do they weigh?

Snake-boy was less than three feet long when found in October 1945. Now he is six feet one inch long and weighs about three pounds eight ounces.

Some pythons, Pope says, grow to a length of more than 30 feet. "Because snakes are cold-blooded they require little food and infrequent meals," Pope says. "Snake-boy has been put on a diet of a few mice or a small rat every week."

"Sometimes captive reptiles get the worst of a battle with a rat, apparently because life in confinement robs them of their natural aggressiveness," United Press.

THREAT TO 3,000,000 INDIANS

The discovery of a new synthetic resin in the United States to replace lac has brought the Indian shellac industry face to face with a severe crisis, and is threatening the incomes of more than 3,000,000 Indian families.

The United States has been using half to two-thirds of the annual Indian output of 40,000 to 50,000 tons of raw lac, chiefly for the manufacture of phonograph records.

The United States is now producing records from synthetic resins of plastics.

Indian observers said if the shellac industry in India is to survive two remedies are necessary: to lower the price of shellac and to carry on research on shellac for the manufacture of records which are unbreakable and free from surface noise.

"Any complacency on the part of the trade resulting in attempts to secure high prices will mean practical destruction of the industry," these sources said.

The annual value of Indian shellac export ranges from £1,500,000 to £7,500,000. Official figures place the number of workers employed in converting crude lac into purified shellac at 30,000, and the number of families who collect lac from trees at more than 3,000,000. Associated Press.



THEY LIKE LONDON IN MAY

Miss Jane Adelle have visited London in May, which they have been doing since 1900. But London without its springtime has been a draw, too—and so this was their 54th trip from America.

Miss JANE SEWALL and Miss ADELLE RAWSON may be biased in London's favour, because they come from Boston, which prides itself on being the most English of American cities.

"If we couldn't live in Boston," mused Miss Jane—then we'd live right here in London," finished Miss Adelle.

Yates had been there to meet them with the same friendly grin. Yates comes from Chiswick and has driven them round England ever since the first war.

Yates said things weren't so bad if you kept your pecker up. They believe in Yates and share his philosophy.

Warnings

Back home they had been warned that they would either freeze or starve. So they packed two hot-water bottles and a suitcase full of food.

They brought along soap and towels and a pair of bed sheets each, for, as Miss Adelle remarked: "From what we had been told, we thought we might get nothing but a blanket." "And on the floor, too," said Miss Jane.

But soap, towels and bed sheets are unpacked, the canned food has been given away.

"Our meals are rather too much for us; such big helpings," confessed Miss Adelle. "And everyone does look well."

Already these two have airmailed nearly 50 letters to America, "telling our friends the truth as we see it." They have passed with light lips the bomb-flattened spaces and talked with Londoners of the blitz. Now they declare their verdict:

"London in May is just as lovely as ever it was. It's been wonderfully worth-while coming."

NOTED FALANGISTS MADE DIPLOMATS

—FRANCO'S LATEST

A reliable Spanish source told the United Press that Generalissimo Francisco Franco, for mysterious reasons of his own, is saluting Spanish diplomatic establishments in the Western Hemisphere with noted Falangists.

"Jose Lequerica is a case in point," the source said. Lequerica, who as the Spanish Ambassador to Vichy reportedly arranged the Petain capitulation to Hitler, was nominated Ambassador to the United States about two years ago. The United States refused to accept him.

"Now Franco has named him 'Inspector General of Embassies and Consulates,' a post that never before existed and the duties of which never have been clearly explained.

"In this capacity he finally arranged for Lequerica to go to Washington. Why? I don't know," said the source.

Lequerica has long been prominent in Falangist circles. Other noted party men are "going west." One is Jose Maria Alfaro, Minister at Bogota.

He was a noted young Falangist during the epoch of Primo de Rivera. Alfaro also is said to have been an able assistant to Serrano Suner.

A third Falangist pointed out is Manuel Valdes. Valdes is said to have been nominated as Minister to Caracas. He also was well known in Falangist circles.

The United Press informant said Spanish circles outside Spain are at a loss to understand the purpose of naming such noted "anti-democratic" figures to democratic posts, although it may be an attempt to counter the recent anti-Franco attitudes in the Western Hemisphere.

In this connection, Moscow Radio reported recently a Tass dispatch which said Venezuela was considering pushing anti-Franco action by UNO, as were other Latin-American countries.

Selection of yesterday's puzzle—Across: 1. This man is from Erie. (5) 2. This game needs horse sense. (6) 3. The bridge you walk the road on. (4) 4. Penny short of terrible war. (8) 5. Truly hero of Arthur. (6) 6. The lowest tide. (4) 7. The lowest tide. (4) 8. The lowest tide. (4) 9. The lowest tide. (4) 10. The lowest tide. (4) 11. The lowest tide. (4) 12. The lowest tide. (4) 13. The lowest tide. (4) 14. The lowest tide. (4) 15. The lowest tide. (4) 16. The lowest tide. (4) 17. The lowest tide. (4) 18. The lowest tide. (4) 19. The lowest tide. (4) 20. The lowest tide. (4) 21. The lowest tide. (4) 22. The lowest tide. (4) 23. The lowest tide. (4) 24. The lowest tide. (4) 25. The lowest tide. (4) 26. The lowest tide. (4) 27. The lowest tide. (4) 28. The lowest tide. (4) 29. The lowest tide. (4) 30. The lowest tide. (4) 31. The lowest tide. (4) 32. The lowest tide. (4) 33. The lowest tide. (4) 34. The lowest tide. (4) 35. The lowest tide. (4) 36. The lowest tide. (4) 37. 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beard, was wearing a hood, and a cap fastened at the throat, with two large silver engraved pins. He was also wearing blue serge trousers and green suede shoes.

A member of Avak's party, Colonel Sumbat Yechiazurian, Iranian Army officer and a doctor, said the healer has effected many cures in Iran.

"I examined the patients before

and after the treatment," said the colonel. "All he does is to touch the patient, then he says a prayer on his behalf and asks the patient to think and believe in the prayer as spoken. As a medical man I will vouch for these cures. They are authentic. Whatever he is doing is through the inspiration of God."

Avak has a six month visa for his American trip, and Arakelian said he hopes that he can stay here at least that long.—Associated Press.

S. C. M. POST,
H.K. TELEGRAPH.